



MICHIGAN CHAPTER

May 19, 2014

To: Chairman Nesbitt and members of the House Energy and Technology Committee

Sierra Club urges a NO vote on HB 5205 (Nesbitt), a bill that classifies waste incineration as renewable energy and allows for new incinerators. Waste incineration does not produce renewable energy. It burns and destroys recyclable materials and emits high levels of pollution and carbon dioxide. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, waste incineration emits more carbon dioxide per unit of energy than any other form of electricity, contributing to the negative consequences of climate change.

If Michigan recycled these materials instead of burning them in waste incinerators, the recycling would create ten times as many jobs compared to incineration¹. A vote in favor of HB 5205 is a vote to kill jobs in Michigan's strong recycling and composting industries.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote NO on HB 5205. Votes pertaining to this bill will be included in the Sierra Club's legislative scorecard.

Sincerely,

Mike Berkowitz
Legislative and Political Director
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

¹ Platt, Brenda et al, Stop Trashing the Climate, ILSR, Eco-Cycle & GAIA, 2008